Production of Tropical Orchids in Andhra Pradesh

1368. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Andhra Pradesh has the potentials for growing tropical orchids in a big way, which in turn can be exported to foreign markets; and

(b) if so, what incentive Government propose to extend to the State to boost production of tropical orchids for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The best suited climatic conditions for growing orchids is prevalent in the State of Kerala. However, by providing shelters, orchids can also be grown in coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Government of India implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on commercial floriculture in Andhra Pradesh during 9th Plan till October, 2000 through which assistance was provided for development of flowers including orchids. Major components of the scheme were: area expansion, training of farmers and trainers, demonstrations, protected cultivation through shade nets and green-houses. From October, 2000 this scheme has been subsumed in Macro Management of Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plans which provides flexibility to States to take up need based programmes including programmes for growing orchids. Besides, National Horticulture Board under the scheme for commercial horticulture is providing assistance for development of floriculture. The assistance can be availed by growers of orchids in Andhra Pradesh.